



2018 Annual Report

FRESNO FIRE DEPARTMENT



2018 Annual Report

City of Fresno

Population:520,159
Land Area:115 sq. miles
Elevation:308 feet
Population Density:4,400/sq. mi.
Population Rank:5th in California
34th in the United States

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mission:

To protect and put service above all else

Vision:

Recognized as a standard of excellence
in the fire service

Core Values:

Teamwork ~ Trust ~ Commitment

Fire Chief Kerri L. Donis



2018 was the year of transformation for the Fresno Fire Family. We have overcome heartbreaking challenges many times during our history. Our more than 360 team members are dedicated, talented, committed and, without a doubt, they are our most important resource! I can say without reservation that the Fresno Fire Department (FFD) today is a better department than it was a year ago.

We achieved significant progress in our commitment to the SART Report recommendations; a focus that will take us into a new year as we continue to build our momentum in the months ahead. In every line of business, we continue to take a hard look at the services we provide the community and the processes by which they are delivered. We asked ourselves, "How can we improve our services to the community? How can we keep our members safe?" We answered those questions by conducting surveys, assessments, emergency response analytics, and focus groups on everything from company culture to recruitment outreach. We added additional training, and more readily available data. Most recently, the FFD team has reviewed and updated 75% of the Department policies and procedures; an empowering undertaking, one we will see through to completion in 2019.

Our top priority remains Teamwork, Trust and Commitment to our members and our community. The strength in the Department lies within our members. Each day, whether it be calls for service, delivery of training curriculum, fire prevention activities, arson investigations, processing administrative duties, or fire apparatus repair; together members move the Department's success forward. Our commitment to the community is unwavering as we continue our transformation into a better, stronger and continuously effective Department.

Proudly Serving



FFD deployed to the Mendocino Complex Fire on E317

Operations Division

In 2018, the FFD responded to over 45,000 incidents from 24 fire stations, including the Airport Rescue Firefighting Station at Fresno Yosemite International. The area covered included the 115 square miles that make up the City of Fresno, including the unincorporated county islands within the city, as well as the North Central Fire District that extends to Kerman. This was accomplished with daily staffing of 77 personnel in Fresno and 12 personnel in the North Central Fire District.

The number of structure fires in Fresno continues to be a problem. Not only are fire losses high at over \$27 million, the displacement of people from their homes, loss of work from businesses, not to mention the injuries and possible fatalities that result from structure fires, are all significant impacts. From a response perspective, the Department focused on response times as well as support for our firefighters to combat fires more efficiently in 2018.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets standards for structure fire response. NFPA 1710 calls for a response time for the first arriving unit to be 4 minutes, 90% of the time, and the assembly of an adequate firefighting force within 8 minutes, 90% of the time. Due to the commitment of the city council and our firefighters, we have made significant progress. Our performance for 2018 indicates we met the 4 minute standard 72% of the time, and the 8 minute response standard 90% of the time to structure fires.

With .58 firefighters per 1000 population, Fresno has far fewer firefighters than our peer cities. The health and safety of our firefighters is paramount to our success. In 2018, the FFD sought to reduce firefighter injuries and enhance wellness through multiple strategies. First, firefighters participated in fitness testing and training through the guidance of Pinnacle Training Systems. Over 90% of our firefighters participated in this voluntary program. Next, the need for rehab following strenuous work in hot weather conditions was emphasized. Through the assistance of equipment obtained from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), the FFD developed the first Heat Stress Protocol for firefighters in the Central Valley. Also, with the development of risk management principles and improvement in command procedures, the Department reduced exposure of the dangers of structure fires to fire personnel when lives were not at risk.

Finally, the Department recognized behavioral health to be just as important as physical health for our employees. Because firefighters respond to incidents involving significant loss, injury, and death there is tremendous need for support, very similar to the needs of soldiers who experience post-traumatic stress. A Critical Incident Stress Management Team provides peer support to help meet this need. In February, the FFD held the first Central Valley First Responder Peer Support Summit where more than 100 representatives of fire, law enforcement and EMS agencies attended.

Through our efforts, the health of our firefighters has improved allowing us to better serve Fresno. From 2016 to 2018, firefighter injuries were cut in half. Furthermore, hours of lost time due to injuries is only a third of what it once was.

Besides responding to medical emergencies and fires, the FFD is very active in special operations including hazardous materials response, airport rescue and firefighting services (ARFF), and urban search and rescue (USAR). In 2018, the Department's Type I Hazmat Team responded to 83 incidents in and around Fresno. Also, following the training of 19 Hazmat Specialists, the FFD received a Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle from the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to better serve the community.

The ARFF station responded to 63 emergencies. One included a small fire in a multiple passenger airliner. Furthermore, ARFF personnel participated in a Tri-Annual Exercise and successfully passed their annual FAA inspection.

The USAR Team responded to 101 incidents in 2018. This included technical support for the recovery of victims following an accident at the Kings River and the recovery of fallen Firefighter Braden Varney from the Ferguson Wildfire. USAR also participated in the deployment of Regional Task Force 5 to Montecito in Santa Barbara County following a mudslide event. There the team searched for survivors of homes that were impacted by the excessive storms in January. Task Force-5 consists of firefighters from Fresno, Fresno County, Clovis, Tulare, and Selma.

Training Division

The Training Division continues to play an integral role in the development of its members. From the probationary firefighter to the seasoned, veteran firefighter and all officers, prevention and support staff, training opportunities abound. In 2018, the Training Division delivered 61,208 hours of training. The Training Division has delivered several California State Fire Training (SFT) courses throughout 2018.

In January 2018, the Training Division completed training on Hazardous Materials 1F; in February 2018, Hazardous Materials 1G. These classes completed the series of hazardous materials courses that began in July 2017. Members also completed a Company Officers' Academy which was inceptioned in 2017. A total of 53 members attended the academy resulting in over 3,300 hours of leadership training, an important component in the SART Report. The academy was attended by captains, engineers, and firefighters.

In March 2018, the Training Division initiated a Career Development Survey for the suppression and prevention teams. Based on the results of this survey, the Training Division delivered the entire Fire Inspection II series (2A - 2D). The Training Division also delivered S-290, Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, and Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B: Pumping Apparatus Operations. Additional courses will be offered in response to the Career Development Survey.

The Department continues to experience a significant decrease in firefighter injuries resulting from the implementation of the SART report recommendations and subsequent training. The Department's continued commitment to training, firefighter safety, adoption of new technologies and equipment, and new strategies in fire suppression are all a part of this success.

- Number of training hours delivered for 2018 (September 13, 2018 = 42,514 hours to date)
- Hazardous Materials 1F: Specialized Mitigation Techniques (832 hours)
- Hazardous Materials 1G: Advanced Field Operations (672 hours)
- Fire Inspector II 2A-2D (672 hours)
- S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior
- Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator 1B: Pumping Apparatus Operations (2015)
- Youth Fire Education Intervention Specialist (Class Code FO0633)
- Fire & Life Safety Inspection of Residential Occupancies



Engineer Crask looks on as the crews' transition from an offensive to defensive fire attack due to structural integrity.



Battalion Chief Cope and Captain Gilbert discuss incident priorities on a house fire in Southwest Fresno.



Arson Investigator Specialist RJ Perez on scene investigating a fire in Southeast Fresno.



Captain John Ross and Battalion Chief Tim Fulmer manage a residential fire in Southwest Fresno.

2018 Annual Statistics

Budget

General Fund	\$55.4M
Grants	\$1.5M
License and Permits	\$366.0K
Charges for Services	\$4.3M
Contract Fees	\$9.0M
Capital	\$1.4M
Total Budget	\$72.1M

Units

Engine Companies	21
Truck Companies	6
Water Tenders	4
Brush Rigs	2
Patrols	2
HazMat Units	2
USAR Heavy Rescue	1
Airport Rescue Vehicle	2

Personnel

Sworn Safety	334
Sworn Non-Safety	18
Civilian	23
Fire Shop	9
Total	384

Daily Staffing

City of Fresno & FGFPD	77
North Central Fire District	12

Incidents

Medical Aids	31,559
Arrivals	24,869
Downgrades	6,690
Total Fires	3,575
Structure Fires	1,036
Vegetation Fires	514
Vehicle Fires	395
False Alarms	2,733
Hazardous Conditions	1,141
Service Calls	1,686
All Other Incidents	4,355
Total Incidents	45,049

Fire Loss

All Fires	\$27.3M
From Arson	\$2.5M
Number of Displaced People from Fires	549

Fatalities

Total Civilian Fatalities	5
Firefighter Fatalities	0

Injuries

Civilian Injuries	21
Firefighter Injuries	77

Fire Investigations

Total Investigations	537
Incendiary Fires	248
Arrests	44

Fire Prevention

5 Year Fire Sprinkler Tests	574
New Sprinkler Inspections	1,515
Plan Reviews	3,718
Fire Inspections	5,703
Weed Abatement Inspections for NCFPD & FGFPD	13

*FGFPD=Fig Garden Fire Protection District

*NCFPD=North Central Fire Protection District

Fire Shop

Repair Requests	4,046
Completed Repairs	3,884



Captain Betancourt manages a hazardous material incident with Engine 1 and Hazmat-1

Thank You

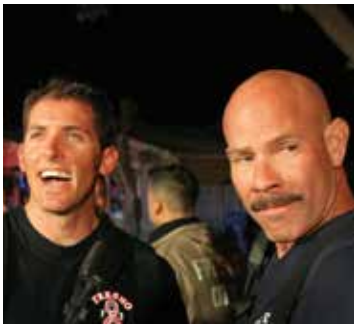
Dear Chief Donis:

As you are likely aware, 2018 was one of the deadliest years on record in terms of firefighters lost while battling California's catastrophic wildfires. The end of 2018 is fast approaching and with it, the conclusion of my own 30-year fire service tenure. I am compelled to share with you the profound impact your personnel made on us during the relentless onslaught of tragedies this past summer, in particular, the death of our Heavy Fire Equipment Operator Braden Varney on the Ferguson Fire.

Due to extremely steep terrain, active fire, and a multitude of other factors, the recovery of HFEO Varney was fraught with challenges. As I stood at the staging area talking with RTF-5 team members and others, I was struck not only with the magnitude of the job at hand, but by their stoic commitment to recover him despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in their path. The heroic – and I do not use the term lightly – efforts of your personnel to bring closure to Braden's family and his CAL FIRE brothers and sisters will never be forgotten.

All the men and women we interacted with during that devastating time who wear your patch or support your Department are deserving of our deepest thanks. It is my sincere hope that we never have to return the favor, but should tragedy strike your ranks as it did ours, please know CAL FIRE will be there to support you without hesitation.

Sincerely,
Chief Ken Pimlott



Engineer Philbin and Captain Bird of T4 after some roof operation in Southeast Fresno.



Firefighter Elliot, Captain Guynn and Engineer Enns serving Southwest Fresno on Truck 19.

Response Times

First company arrival within 4 minutes

Structure Fires Only.....	72%
Medical Aids.....	64%*
Fires.....	65%*

Effective residential firefighting force

within 8 minutes.....	80%*
(15 Firefighters on scene)	

Effective commercial firefighting force

within 8 minutes.....	81%*
(21 Firefighters on scene)	

*National Standard is 90%

Fire Stations

Station	Address	Council District
ARFF (Airport)	5065 E. Anderson	4
Station 1	1264 N. Jackson	4
Station 2	7114 N. West	2
Station 3	1406 Fresno St.	3
Station 4	3065 E. Iowa	7
Station 5	3131 N. Simpson	7
Station 6	4343 E. Gettysburg	4
Station 7	2571 S. Cherry	3
Station 8	1428 S. Cedar	5
Station 9	2340 N. Vagedes	1
Station 10	5545 Aircorp Way	4
Station 11	5544 N. Fresno	4
Station 12	2874 N. Acacia	1
Station 13	815 E. Nees	6
Station 14	6239 N. Polk	2
Station 15	5630 E. Park Circle	5
Station 16	2510 N. Polk	3
Station 17	10512 N. Maple	6
Station 18	5938 N. LaVentana	2
Station 19	3187 W. Belmont	3
Station 20	4537 N. Wishon (FGFPD)*	
Station 21	15850 W. Kearney (NCFPD)*	
Station 22	806 S. Garfield (NCFPD)*	
Station 23	4555 N. Biola (NCFPD)*	

*FGFPD=Fig Garden Fire Protection District

*NCFPD=North Central Fire Protection District

Company Responses

Engine Companies

Company Responses

E01	3,200
E02	1,461
E03	4,253
E04	3,425
E05	3,725
E06	2,340
E07	2,416
E08	2,796
E09	3,361
E11	2,605
E12	2,958
E13	2,103
E14	1,343
E15	2,040
E16	2,053
E17	893
E18	878
E20	1,883
E21	1,645
E22	508
E23	404

Truck Companies

Company Responses

T04	1,410
T09	1,279
T10	1,081
T11	928
T19	2,043
T21	343

Battalion Chiefs

Unit..... Responses

BC01	811
BC02	725
BC03	524
BC04	724

Water Tenders

Unit..... Responses

WT03	60
WT14	49
WT21	61
WT23	43

Special Operations

Unit..... Responses

AR01 - Air Rescue.....	95
AR02 - Air Rescue.....	93
BR15 - Brush Rig	27
BR19 - Brush Rig	86
BRS1 - Breathing Support.....	83
HM01 - HazMat	75
HM16 - HazMat	49
I01 - Investigation.....	490
I02 - Investigation.....	43
I03 - Investigation.....	33
I04 - Investigation.....	46
I05 - Investigation.....	2
I06 - Investigation.....	7
I07 - Investigation.....	2
P02 - Patrol	24
P07 - Patrol	48
R11 - Rescue.....	124
R211 - Rescue.....	73



Prevention Division

Prevention and Support Services Division continues to provide prevention services to the community through public education and community outreach events, periodic inspections of established commercial buildings, and plan review and inspections of new construction for compliance with fire and life safety codes. The division is also responsible for logistical and technical support for the rest of the Department, ensuring that the other divisions have the support needed to provide services to the community. The division also coordinates and supports the other community outreach programs under the Community Outreach umbrella to ensure the community is aware that encouraging a fire and life safety environment provides for a healthy community.



Fire Prevention Inspector Dodderer and Fire Prevention Engineer Beal reviewing the sprinkler plans. In 2018 our team has reviewed over 900 sprinkler and fire alarm plans.



The staff of Prevention & Support Services Division.

CERT



The **Fresno Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** program trains people to be better prepared to respond to emergencies in their homes, workplaces and community. The 20-hour training series has been offered 52 times and has provided 1,245 individuals with basic emergency response skills, particularly those that would be of value after a disaster or local emergency. In 2018, CERT volunteers were activated by FFD 16 times for rehab support at major fires and incidents; for a total of 140 activations since the "CERT1" response vehicle was placed in service. Volunteers also provided on-going logistical support for numerous FFD training activities and special events; and participated in 15 major community service and public outreach events. CERT members were offered 21 continuing education opportunities and participated in four emergency exercises. The Fresno CERT and Citizen Corps Programs were recognized in FEMA's National CERT Bulletin in honor of their 15th anniversary; and together have taken a lead role nationally in emergency preparedness for child care providers.

Fire Shop



Fire shop personnel led by shop supervisors Mario Caro and Craig Patrick.

In 2018 our **Fire Shop** officially relocated to the Fleet Facility shop. Although there is much history in the old shop, the new location provides double the space and provides our mechanics with a better working environment. Our shop is open from 0600-2300 and tasked with maintaining over 130 pieces of equipment, to include our apparatus and all the way down to the last chainsaw. Our mechanics work on-call shifts and respond to emergency scenes after hours to support the firefighters. Currently we have eleven shop personnel with an additional four currently in the hiring process to kick off 2019.

Community Outreach



Engine 7 working in their district and educating the youth in the community.

"Firefighter Community Outreach" Department encourages our firefighters to seek creative and thoughtful ways to engage with the community. Events range from school carnivals and fire drills; to car shows and block parties; conducting fire station tours as well as home safety inspections where smoke alarms may be installed. Our hope is that these intentional and frequent interactions will build positive relationships and promote safer communities.



Captain G. Wedemeyer, Firefighter Katzenstein and Engineer Short handing out bike helmets to the children in need.

Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF)

The **Fresno Fire Chief's Foundation (FFCF)** is a non-profit organization which partners with the FFD to support several programs. The Fresno Fire Department **Explorer Program** provides young men and women (14-22 years old) with insight into the firefighting world. The **Helmets are Cool** program has provided over 13,000 free helmets to children since its inception. This is done through school programs, fire station tours, and distributed by firefighters on engine and truck companies. **Firefighters Creating Memories** allows families with developmentally or physically disabled children to enjoy the Big Fresno Fair in the presence of Fresno Firefighters. Those families are escorted through the fairgrounds and assisted on rides by the firefighters participating in the program. To learn more about the FFCF work in the community, go to the website at www.beafirehero.org.



Engineer Vasquez and E15 gave the students and staff of Easterby Elementary a fire safety talk and a little cooling off.



FFD members helping a family enjoy The Big Fresno Fair with the Firefighters Creating Memories program.



2018 "Burpee Challenge"

Follow
us on:

